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W. D. DOUGLASS, Editor.

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WINNSBORO, S. C.

Wednesday, September 18. : 1889

CONGRESSMAN S. S. COX, familiarly known as "Sunset" Cox, died in New York on last Tuesday. He was one of the most brilliant and brainy men of this time.

The latest thing in the way of trusts is the brick trust of Seattle, the city recently visited by a destructive fire. This, perhaps, the hardest trust yet organized.

It is said that Jeff. Davis will be at Fayetteville, N. C., in November next to attend the constitutional centennial celebration, and that fully fifty thousand people will be present. It will be a pleasure for the old veterans to see the grand old man once more.

AGAIN the news comes from London that another terrible murder has been committed at Whitechapel. These murders eclipse anything of the kind in the annals of crimes. All efforts of the detectives to ferret out the murderer seem futile. The victim is again a woman and her body is mutilated substantially in the same way as the many others that have been butchered in Whitechapel.

We publish to-day a very interesting discussion of the Act of Apportionment from the pen of Prof. R. Means Davis. We know of no one in the State more conversant with the subject and more competent to give an exposition of the intent of the Act by reason of the active participation taken by him in the matter. Indeed, it was his suggestion that induced Gov. Thompson, who was then Superintendent of Education, to frame and introduce the act of apportionment. We feel sure his article will be read with interest and profit.

It is said by the Columbia Register's correspondent from Charleston, that the British steamship Adoncorad has sailed for Barcelona, Spain, and in her hold a cargo of nearly 4,000 bales of cotton, and in that amount about 1,200 bales of the Alliance. This means practically victory for the farmers. They are called "Merchantable." Of course the inference is that the bales packed in cotton bagging will be accepted on the other side of the water, because otherwise they would not have been received, and it is further reported that the appearance of the white covering is growing more frequent daily. This looks like jute must go down.

A Week of Sensations.

Last week was a week of sensations in Chester. Rader C. Brandt, the junior member of the firm of R. Brandt & Son, prominent jewelers of that place, committed suicide on last Friday night.

In the Hallsville section of that county a brutish outrage was attempted last Monday upon a little white girl by a negro villain.

On Saturday, in a cutting affray at Lowrysville, between Scott Browley, (white), and Hez. Robins, (colored), the former was cut in several places.

Help Us.

We purpose about the 1st of November next to print a trade issue, giving as elaborately and accurately as possible, an account of the trade and products of Winnsboro, and we shall also give the whole county, with the smaller towns in it, a place in the picture. We have not made as much demonstration over our industrial and business development as many of the other towns of the State, yet by a union of the conservatism and the wise judgment of our older men with the zeal and energy and progressive spirit of the younger, Winnsboro has made within the last year a steady and sure advancement. We believe that a review of our trade, progress and resources will result in great good to the county seat and to the county at large.

Now, it will require a great deal of trouble and labor for us to publish a trade issue, that will be a credit to the town and county, and unless we have the aid and sympathy of our people in the work, it will necessarily fall far short of success.

There are many persons who could help us, and we ask them to do it, we ask our friends to collect all the data they think will be suitable, and send it to us. No matter how little it may be, if only a few lines, send it. We feel in the very outset that it will be a heavy task to undertake, and we beg that every one, who is able to do so, will contribute to our knowledge of any advantage which Fairfield possesses, will inform us of it. We trust that each and every individual will feel an interest in this matter, and give us their help and co-operation.

Fortune Follows a Fresno, Cal. Disaster.  
Bernard Herings, a well-known broker on pine street, between Montgomery and Sanson, is the father of a young man who will hereafter speak praise concerning the Louisiana State Lottery. A few days before the recent

Mount Zion's New; Scholastic Year  
Under the most encouraging auspices has Mount Zion entered the scholastic year of 1889-90. There was no friction in beginning work the first week so well adjusted is the mechanism of the school. All the old pupils knew exactly what was to be done. They knew their places in the rank. They knew exactly where they were to sit. There was no scrambling at the school-room door, all trying to enter at once as the parents of most of them were, perhaps, wont to do when they were school-children. The same regularity and methodical movements characterize the exercises through the whole day. There was no confusion in the assignment of scholars to their appropriate classes, and even the new students are now in harness, as it were, and at the close of the first week we find them working with the same regularity as the old.

What kind of a start have you made? was the question asked Prof. Witherspoon on last Monday morning. "Well," said he, "the first week has been the best since my connection with the school, we have now on the roll 142 pupils, and they seem to have begun their work in earnest."

Do the people of Winnsboro properly appreciate Mount Zion? Yes, in a sense they do, and in a sense they do not. Passively they do, actively they do not. Mount Zion is doing a great work for us, and every citizen of the town ought to feel it his duty to add to the improvement and increased success of the institution. The Rock Hill people, we are told, never let a stranger leave the place without having shown him the school building. This is right. If we want to make a good impression on visitors to the town, we must not only show them the oil mills, cotton factories, magnificent stores, etc., but we must let them know our educational advantages, for sound intellectual training lies at the very basis of success in business enterprises.

There is one matter which we want to explain, and throw it in here somewhat parenthetically. It is the tuition fee at Mount Zion, and as there has been some misunderstanding, we think it necessary to explain. In the first place so far as pupils from the other School Districts are concerned the loss by apportionment does not affect them at all. They pay one dollar per month for the ten months, as I have always done.

Pupils living in this District pay one dollar per month for the last four months of the session, or in other words what is received from the two mills tax is only sufficient to run the school six months, and hence the one dollar is charged pupils of this District in order to complete the ten months.

Let us show a more active appreciation of our school for she deserves it. Let us work for it even harder than in the past. The teachers can't do it all. No matter what may be their didactic and disciplinary powers, they cannot accomplish the best results unless they have the sympathy and co-operation of parents. For instance, they can't control the preparation of lessons at home nor enforce punctual attendance.

If parents would have their children profit by their advantages at Mount Zion, they must, to a great extent, assist the teachers in enforcing the by-laws and regulations of the Institute. They must see that their children leave home in time to reach school at the proper hour, that they are not allowed to shirk the scrutinizing test of rigid examinations and other exercises.

We do not by this editorial mean to impute to the people of Winnsboro any lack of appreciation of intellectual culture. Our only object is to remind them that while they are so busy with the many new enterprises springing up in Winnsboro, they must not lose sight of Mount Zion, which has always been the pride of the place.

As a leader in the cause of education, Winnsboro has ever enjoyed the high distinction of being classed foremost among the towns of the State. Her people were among the very first, more than a century ago, to organize a society to foster popular education. Her people were the first to declare, "Our country calls, nay, the voice of reason calls aloud to us, to promote knowledge as the firmest cement of a State." Ours is a noble heritage. Let us make the most of it.

What Do You Say, Gentlemen?

We think that we are not far wrong when we say that, to the observant man, there has been a very perceptible spirit on the part of the business men of Winnsboro to offer every inducement and furnish all the conveniences in their power to get the trade of the county and to have the cotton of the farmers brought to Winnsboro. There is, so to speak, underground currents at work with this end in view, and we feel confident that the people of the town will cheerfully respond to every reasonable and legitimate demand made upon them to suit the convenience of farmers bringing their produce to this market. We want the confidence and support of the whole county. We have mutual interests. Why do we say that there is an earnest and sincere movement to bring about a closer union of town and county? We assert it because we have overwhelming facts that bear us out in the statement. Our merchants are now selling their goods cheaper than they have ever done before. We have now almost completed the oil mill, and the full operation of the cotton factory is destined to be an actuality in the near future. While these enterprises alone will be of inestimable value to the farmer in supplying a market for his produce, we verily believe that they are but a nucleus to which shall be added others, provided they meet with the response to which they are entitled. The Board of Trade too has been established. The Board of Trade too has been established. The Board of Trade too has been established.

that the charge for weighing cotton was abandoned.

Now, we understand that the Farmers' Alliance is agitating the advisability of establishing an agent at some point in the county to buy their cotton and to build a warehouse in the place selected. Will Winnsboro not be the most suitable place? She wants it, and it is our purpose to advocate her claims before the Alliance as impartially as possible. Col. Terrell, in his speeches throughout the state, has advised the Alliance men to patronize those who will offer them the best inducements. Will they act upon his advice? Winnsboro is well stocked with cotton buyers; in truth there are more here now than at any other time in the whole history of the place. This market is attracting the attention of some of the largest cotton dealers in the country. We have with us the representatives of firms who sell direct to the factory and also export to Liverpool. Some of them do exclusively an exporting business. They are buying at factory prices. Quotations by wire will be received every quarter of an hour. Competition, therefore, will be at a high pitch. What must necessarily be the effects of the presence of so many purchasers? The answer, we know, is anticipated as soon as the question is asked. It must be to the interest of the seller to have within his reach as many buyers as possible; the more purchasers we have with us the greater will be the demand for the cotton on the market, and hence the higher will be the price paid. The effect has already been noticeable. Cotton sold in this place on Tuesday at Charleston prices. We challenge any inland town in the state to beat it!

We have now in Winnsboro the representatives of such mammoth foreign firms as George H. McFadden, of Philadelphia, S. M. Imms, of Atlanta, Heath & Springs, of Lancaster, Sanders & Orr, of Charlotte, Carroll & Stacy, of Gaffney's City, and we are told that others will in all probability arrive within a short time, and besides many of our own merchants propose to make the bidding hot. The fact that so many big establishments are locating agents here is significant. They evidently believe that a great deal of the staple will be on this market, and moreover, their respective firms are accustomed to handle cotton on a tremendous scale, and they can, therefore, afford to reap a minimum profit, and this means that high prices will be paid with a small margin for profit—all of which will inevitably be for the benefit of the producer. One of these gentlemen, and a man of long experience he is too, said that he regarded Winnsboro the best point in the county for the farmer to bring his cotton because it was the most central, and the others concur with him. The majority of these gentlemen have no property in the town and their opinions must be accepted as impartial and disinterested.

Again there is no other place in the county that has a bank, and we feel sure that every one will agree with us in saying that a bank is indispensable to both seller and buyer; and it is a great pleasure for us to state that we have been officially authorized to say that the Winnsboro National Bank will afford every banking facility, and, if necessary, the hours of the bank will be prolonged to suit the convenience of the farmer. No breakage will be deducted as has been the custom heretofore. A disinterested weigher will have full charge of the scales. The weights without regard to the price paid, and without respect to the interest of the purchaser or seller. Mr. W. B. Creight has held this position for years, and a more honest and conscientious gentleman can't be found. We believe that for all parties concerned it is better to have a weigher who has no interest whatever in the cotton. We do not mean that if the buyer weighed he would be dishonest, yet in having a public weigher there is the absence of temptation. There is another thing we would have the Alliance consider, and that is the advantage they would have in having their warehouse under the vigilant protection of the three fire companies. We know of no town in the state, all things being equal, that has a better fire department than Winnsboro. And we presume that the Alliance will have a great quantity of cotton held for a considerable time. The matter of insurance therefore will be a big item.

Now, gentlemen of the Alliance, the people of Winnsboro are in earnest about this matter. They are determined that no place shall offer greater inducements. We ask you to consider this matter seriously before you send words in italics should be changed to the number of months constituting the school term of the County." The County Board are allowed by law to fix a term for the county, not different terms for each school. Schools open for about one month can be rated fractionally. But there must be some common basis of apportionment for all. Otherwise a pupil attending a month in a school that is open for a month is rated at one unit, while in a school open for six months he is rated at one-tenth of a pupil, or in other words "things equal to the same thing are of equal to each other." When this act was passed there were only two graded schools in the State system, so that in the rest of the counties the school was a common school, the school was a common school, the school was a common school.

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THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND.

A Statement Giving the History and Intent of the Act of Apportionment.

To the Editor of The News and Herald:

As I was a member of the County Board of Examiners of Fairfield that first adopted the method of apportioning school funds which has been declared illegal I feel it incumbent on me to show that this method was in full conformity with the Act of the Legislature, and scrupulously carried out its intent and meaning. To do so it is necessary to examine into the history of the public school system.

During the Republican regime there was no legislative interpretation of the constitutional phrase "in proportion to the number of children attending the public schools." Each County School Commissioner was a law to himself, and as the whole school fund was then sent to the State Treasury to be apportioned among the counties, much unfairness resulted. The Commissioner of a neighboring county on one occasion opened schools for a week or two in every nook and corner, by means of which he so increased the nominal attendance of his County as to secure about \$10,000, while Fairfield, though paying the same tax, got back about \$3,000. When Hon. Hugh S. Thompson began his administration to reduce chaos to order his attention was naturally directed to this question of attendance and apportionment. After much consultation with myself and others he framed the act which is now on the statute books.

This act provides that the several County School Commissioners shall apportion the funds "in proportion to the average attendance upon the free public school for the last preceding year." That is the pupil to be regarded as fully attending school must attend for the school year. If he attends only a part of the time he is rated fractionally and the school district is paid proportionally. This follows the general custom of schools that charge tuition. If the terms be \$40 a year of ten months, and the pupil is present eight months he pays \$32. The conditions are not changed if the terms are \$4 a month. In that case the months are added to make the aggregate.

It is next provided that "the school month shall consist of twenty school days, and this number shall be taken as the unit of compensation in estimating the average attendance of each pupil in the free public schools of the state." If one month is one unit, by the rules of arithmetic, two months are two units, and so on. I can see no other reasonable construction. This verbiage was adopted to introduce the idea of time.

The County Board of Fairfield has followed this law in making its apportionment until the present year. To confirm this statement of facts regarding the intent and meaning of the act, I have written to the Hon. Hugh S. Thompson, the framer of the bill, and the inaugurator of the school reforms introduced by the Democratic Legislature. Among other things, I said:

"My recollection is that you told me that you would have the act passed so as to make time a factor, but that you were doubtful of its constitutionality."

He replied as follows: "WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 4, 1889. "DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 1st inst., has been received, you are correct as to the purpose I had in view in framing the bill regulating the apportionment of the school funds. Whether or not the law will bear the construction which I had in mind when it was prepared is of course a question which must be determined by the Attorney General or by the Courts. The plan which I followed in framing the bill was to make it as simple as possible, and I have no doubts as to its constitutionality."

"Yours truly," "HUGH S. THOMPSON."

"Prof. R. Means Davis."

The trouble about this matter arises from the fact that the rule of the State Superintendent does not conform to the act, and Commissioners in other counties have followed the rules without studying the act. I quote the rule: "Rule 2. To find the average attendance of one school for one school year and the averages as found by Rule 1 for each month and divide the sum by the number of months that the school has been in session." To conform to the act, the words in italics should be changed to the number of months constituting the school term of the County." The County Board are allowed by law to fix a term for the county, not different terms for each school. Schools open for about one month can be rated fractionally. But there must be some common basis of apportionment for all. Otherwise a pupil attending a month in a school that is open for a month is rated at one unit, while in a school open for six months he is rated at one-tenth of a pupil, or in other words "things equal to the same thing are of equal to each other." When this act was passed there were only two graded schools in the State system, so that in the rest of the counties the school was a common school, the school was a common school, the school was a common school.

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